



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES
January 27, 2003

Members Present: Mike Vance - *President*, Robert Kinney - *Vice President*, Gloria Coney - *Clerk*, Gerald Bell, Ralph Cooper, Judy Flashner, Michael Glavin, Charlotte Golar Richie, Joanne Hilferty, Elizabeth Miranda, Valerie Pruitt and Frederick Umeh

Members Absent: Joelee Baker-Bey, Ella Everett, Mike Foley - *Treasurer*, Betty Greene, George Greenidge, Robert Harrington, Mark Maloney, Patricia Riddick Juanita Wade and John Wagner

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo, Shirley Carrington, Inez Foster

EDIC Staff: Michelle Trousil

Ex-Officios: Senator Dianne Wilkerson and City Councilor Chuck Turner

Guests: Alicia Crenshaw, Nathan Pham (for Senator Jack Hart), Myisha Roach, Darryl Settles, Andy Waxman

Meeting called to order at 6:25 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Postponed to the next meeting because of lack of quorum.

2. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Vance thanked the members for attending the Executive Committee meeting and encouraged all Board members to attend. He also thanked Board members for attending this re-scheduled Board meeting. He passed out a letter from Gloria Coney regarding the change of the Board meeting (See attached). There was a brief discussion of members understanding of why the Board meeting was rescheduled. This was due to the planned meeting for January 28 to outreach to minority businesses to provide services in the 2004 DNC convention. Mr. Vance encouraged members to respond to faxes from Boston Connects, Inc. and to participate in committee meeting.

Mr. Vance stated that one item he'd like all members to understand is the RFP process. All votes to the Board are to be brought to the Executive Committee.

A committee consisting minimally of Ms. Joanne Hilferty, Ms. Juanita Wade and Senator Dianne Wilkerson. The committee will meet on February 13th at 8:30 a.m. to start to fine tune Boston Connects, Inc.'s disclosure of interest policy.



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ▪ Phone 617-541-2670 ▪ Fax 617-427-0747
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3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Araujo referred Board members to the Committee sign-up sheet in the Board packets and encouraged Board members to sign up for a committee.

She thanked Board members and staff for their participation in the Annual Meeting which feedback indicates was a great success. Ms. Araujo announced that HUD was satisfied with BCI's response to the monitoring report and determined that the "finding" was closed. BCI now has access to the audit reports of the other Empowerment Zones.

There was no program statistics report this month due to the holidays. The Skills Training through the Career Center training programs have reached their capacity. The RFI for the Family Opportunity Center was issued in November. Responses were due Dec. 27th. The Board invited to review responses.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. AD-HOC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ms. Hilferty reported that the Ad Hoc Planning committee had been working on the Workplan for 2003 at the request of the Board to "weave together" the work of the various committees so that Board members could better understand BCI's work. Committees are meeting and may be making revisions to the plan. Discussion followed to ensure that all understood the work plan and have a sense relative to priorities. The work plans will serve as a starting point. Plans may change over time but the Board will know what will be swapped. More detailed discussion will occur at the next meeting. The next step is to ensure budget meets the needs of the workplan.

B. EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Kinney reported that the committee has met. Discussions have focused on the workplan and the ex-offender Summit. The committee's workplan will focus on the following:

- An assessment of where the jobs are, realizing that the employment picture has shifted since the Strategic Plan was written.
- The impact of the education and training dollars that have been allocated
- Tracking job placement and retention. Reference was made to a chart developed by the committee.
- The impact of English immersion on ESL programs.

Mr. Kinney stated he was pleased to learn at the Executive Committee meeting that the Economic Development Committee and the Education and Job Readiness Committee was on the "same page". The next meeting of the Committee is February 5th @ 6:00 p.m. Board members were encouraged to attend.

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Glavin gave the report of the Economic Development Committee. He suggested the Board review the micro-loan vote included in the package for discussion and vote at the next meeting. Discussions ensued around whether previously funded Economic Development Projects were meeting their commitments and whether they were being monitored. Further concerns were expressed regarding the Morton Street Developable site and Palmer Street project. Ms. Golar-Richie and Mr. Glavin clarified the status of these projects indicating that the plans for both Morton Street and Palmer Street have changed from the original request. The aforementioned projects would make presentations to the Economic Development Committee.



Mr. Glavin recused himself from the conversation, as the project owners were clients of his employee. Ms. Hilferty presented the tax-exempt bond-financing request from Katsiroubas & Sons. The company requested \$3,000,000 to expand their facility in Newmarket Square. A discussion ensued regarding this request. Ms. Araujo stated that companies must maintain the 35% rule for hiring Zone or they lose access to the tax-exempt bonds. The request was referred back to the Economic Development Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



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